

REMARKS

The present amendment, including the following remarks, is submitted in accordance with a telephone interview conducted on 30 and 31 May 2002 between the Examiner, the Examiner's Supervisor Steve Saras, and Applicants' attorney. In submitting this amendment, Applicants' attorney notes that the 37 CFR 1.116 Amendment submitted 27 March 2002 for this application has not been entered.

As a preliminary matter, please make the following corrections to the Amendment submitted 9 October 2001 for this application. In the first sentence of footnote 1 on page 13, change "cancelled" to "was cancelled". In the last paragraph on page 15, change "53 - 56", both occurrences, to "54 - 56" in light of the fact that Claim 53 was cancelled in the 9 October 2001 Amendment. In the first paragraph on page 24, change "Claims 66" to "Claim 66".

In reviewing the 9 October 2001 Amendment, Applicants' attorney noted that the Amendment failed to explain why Claims 129 and 130 were not obvious under 35 USC 103(a) based on Jones et al, U.S. Patent 5,175,637 ("Jones"), in view of Bird et al, U.S. Patent 5,483,263 ("Bird"). The 9 October 2001 Amendment should have stated that Claim 129 is patentable over Jones and Bird for the same reasons as Claim 66. Inasmuch as Claim 130 depends from Claim 129, the 9 October 2001 Amendment should also have stated that Claim 130 is patentable over Jones and Bird on the same basis as Claim 129.

In a voicemail on approximately 23 January 2002, Applicants' attorney informed the Examiner that different parts of the 15 January 2002 Office Action treated Claims 127 and 128 in an inconsistent manner as to whether they were rejected or allowed/allowable. Based on the tenor of the 15 January 2002 Office Action, Applicants' attorney informed the Examiner that it appeared that (a) the reference on page 2 to Claim 128 as being rejected under 35 USC 103(a) should be deleted and (b) the references on page 7 to Claims 127 and 128 in the reasons for rejecting certain claims should be deleted. In a voicemail the next day, the Examiner confirmed that the 15 January 2002 Office Action should be corrected in this way.

In the 30/31 May 2002 interview, it was confirmed that the Supplemental Amendment submitted 14 November 2001 to correct several errors in Claims 1, 56, 57, and 127 has been entered.

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Turning now to the present amendment, the claims have been revised in two aspects. The revision made in the 9 October 2001 Amendment to Claim 98 failed to take into account the fact that the dependency of Claim 98 was changed from Claim 96 to Claim 97 in the prior Amendment submitted 4 May 2000. Accordingly, the revision made in the 9 October 2001 Amendment to Claim 98 has been cancelled and replaced with a new revision that takes the claim dependency change into account. Claim 104 has been amended to conform to the wording of Claims 97 and 98 from which Claim 104 depends. No claims have been added or cancelled. As a result, Claims 1 - 4, 6 - 40, 42, 44, 46, 47, 49 - 52, 54 - 59, and 66 - 154 are still pending.

The allowance of Claims 1 - 4, 6 - 40, 42, 44, 46, 47, 49 - 52, 54 - 59, 125 - 128, and 131 - 138 is noted. It is also noted that Claims 99 - 114 have been deemed to contain allowable subject matter.

The various prior art rejections of Claims 66 - 98, 115 - 124, 129, 130, and 139 - 154 were dealt with in the 30/31 May 2002 interview. Subject to further examination of this application, Claims 66 - 124, 129, 130, and 139 - 154 should be allowed along with already allowed Claims 1 - 4, 6 - 40, 42, 44, 46, 47, 49 - 52, 54 - 59, 125 - 128, and 131 - 138 so that the application may proceed to issue.

Please telephone Applicants' attorney at 408-453-9200, ext. 1371, if there are any questions.

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I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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